



File Code: 2210
Date: July 21, 2015

Flat Top Sheep Company
John Peavey
P.O. Box 99
Carey, ID 83320

Dear John

It has come to my attention that your foreman Ephrain Rohas would like to alter this year's routing described in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the dry band scheduled to use the Fisher-Greys Creek allotment this year. Ephrain pointed out to my range staff, Bill Whitaker, that the routing described in this year's AOI would have the band using the Painter and Prunty Creek areas at the end of this year's grazing season and that important springs serving troughs in this area may be dry at this time. Ephrain requested that the routing be changed so that these areas are used at the beginning of the season consequently increasing the chances that the springs will produce adequate water area for the band. We agree with Ephrain's observations and appreciate the fact that he pointed out his concerns to my range staff and a way to improve management of the allotment.

This letter will serve as a modification of your 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). The modification will help assure a successful grazing season on the Ketchum Ranger District. Please be aware that all other pertinent instructions, precautions, standards and guidelines continue to apply that are contained in the previous 2015 AOI.

This year's AOI will be modified and the routing changed as described below.

Fisher-Grays-Porcupine Allotments

Following is this year's general grazing route that the dry band will follow this season:

On 8/5, a dry band of 1700 ewes will enter the Fisher-Grays Creek Allotment from Buck Creek (BLM/Private) near the headwaters of Prunty Creek. The band will then begin grazing northerly up the Little Wood River drainage using Prunty Creek, north to the Greys Creek drainage. The band will graze down Aspen Gulch and Corral Canyon to the lower portions of Greys and Pasture Creeks. When these areas are grazed to standard the band will graze up Greys Creek and cross from the Greys Creek drainage to the upper portions of Pasture Creek and continue to graze northerly across the Iron Mine drainage to Schuss Canyon. From Schuss Canyon the band will then graze southerly down the Little Wood River to the headwaters portion of the Porcupine Creek drainage near the Drop Canyon/Talus Gulch areas in the Porcupine Creek drainage. When grazing southerly to the Porcupine Creek drainage the band will use areas purposely skipped or avoided by the band earlier to provide an un-grazed route for the band. When the band reaches the upper portions of Porcupine Creek (Talus Gulch/Drop Canyon areas) the band will then graze down the Porcupine Creek drainage to the Forest Boundary. When the



Porcupine Creek drainage is grazed to standard the band will move to the Fisher Creek drainage and graze the Fisher Creek and then Baugh Creek drainages. The band will leave the Forest on 9/26.

Prescribed fire was used to treat the upper portions of the Fisher Creek drainage this spring. Please inform your herder that the upper portions of Fisher Creek drainage north of Trail Canyon is to be rested this year and avoided by the sheep. Please reference the attached allotment map.

The Fisher Creek drainage bottom approximately one mile up from the Forest boundary is to be avoided by the sheep due to the steep slopes and narrow canyon bottom.

Please inform your herder that bed-grounds need to be well separated spatially in order to achieve "once over" grazing standards.

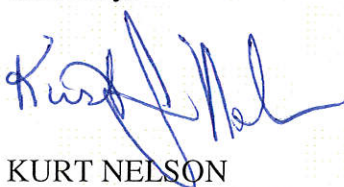
We realize that when the band grazes south back through the Little Wood River drainage that it may not be possible to entirely avoid areas previously grazed. You are authorized to trail through areas previously used if necessary. However this practice should be kept to a minimum. Careful routing of the band and skipping areas earlier in the season to provide un-grazed areas later in the season should minimize this practice. Where crossing over areas previously used is unavoidable the band should be rapidly trailed across these areas.

The riparian area in the lower portions of Porcupine Creek is in poor condition. Due to the constrictive nature of this drainage the herder needs to be extra careful to avoid trailing the bottom with the band and repeated use. The band needs to be well distributed when watering in this area. The band will limit use in the lower portions of Porcupine Creek (Dry Canyon downstream), to approximately 10 days or less.

Due to the rough terrain and lack of capable area in the headwater portions of LeMoyné Creek and the southerly portions of Burks Creek limit use to trailing only, across these areas.

Please avoid using the immediate area around the outfitter camp located in the lower portions of the Grays Creek drainage.

Sincerely,



KURT NELSON
District Ranger



Enclosure: Fisher-Greys Creek Allotment map